Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of amended claims is provided in the format established under 37 C.F.R. § 1.173:

Listing of Claims:

23.-25. (Canceled)

27.-29. (Canceled)

34. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Canceled)

45. (Six Times Amended) A knife comprising:

a handle;

a blade pivotally coupled to the handle to be moveable about a blade pivot point, such that the blade moves between a stowed position and a deployed position, the blade including a tang having a portion thereof projecting beyond the handle for engagement by a finger of a user when the blade is in the stowed position; and

a spring assembly operatively coupled between the handle and the blade to act on the blade to urge the blade toward the deployed position when the blade is moved by an external force from the stowed position toward the deployed position at least past a transition position, the spring assembly positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, to apply a first force in a first direction that is offset from the blade pivot point to create a first moment about the rotation axis while the blade is positioned between the transition position and the deployed position, for biasing the blade towards the deployed position.

52. (Thrice Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a handle;

a blade having a tang coupled to the handle, the blade configured to rotate about a rotation axis, relative to the handle, between a retracted position and an extended position;

a spring operatively coupled between the handle and the blade for holding the blade in the retracted position while the blade is in the retracted position and for biasing the blade toward the extended position when the blade is moved from the retracted position past a transition position toward the extended position, the spring positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, to apply a first force in a first direction that is offset from the rotation axis when the blade is in the retracted position to create a moment about the rotation axis for holding the blade in the retracted position; and

pressing means for a user to manually move the blade from the retracted position to a location past the transition position with one hand while holding the knife with the same one hand, the pressing means extending from the blade of the knife.

54. (Amended) The folding knife of claim 52 wherein the pressing means comprises at least one of a plurality of ridges formed on the tang of the blade, a plurality of directional saw-like teeth formed on the tang of the blade, and a pin coupled to an upper portion of the blade.

58. (Thrice Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a handle;

a blade having a tang coupled to the handle, the blade configured to rotate about a rotation axis, relative to the handle, through an arc between a retracted position and an extended position when an opening force is applied to the blade;

a contact pin coupled to the blade and extending outward from the blade, positioned such that a user, holding the knife in one hand, can apply an opening force to the contact pin with a thumb or finger of the same hand; and

a biasing assembly including a spring, the biasing assembly having a first end connected to the handle remote from the rotation axis and a second end proximate the rotation

axis to act on the blade, the second end of the biasing assembly configured to apply an opening force to the blade to bias the blade toward the extended position after the blade is moved from the retracted position past a transition position between the retracted position and the extended position, the second end of the biasing assembly moving away from a back of the handle towards a front of the handle as the blade moves beyond the transition position towards the extended position and the opening force being applied at a location radially offset from the rotation axis and in a direction offset from the rotation axis to create a moment about the rotation axis.

59. (Amended) The folding knife of claim 58 wherein the biasing assembly is arranged such that an applied outwardly directed force of the spring thereof increases to a point of maximum force as the blade is moved through the arc from the retracted position toward the transition position, then decreases in force as the blade continues past the point of maximum force at the transition position toward the extended position.

60. (Twice Amended) The folding knife of claim 58 further including a plurality of ridges positioned on the tang of the blade.

62. (Thrice Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a handle;

a blade having a tang coupled to the handle, the blade configured to rotate about a rotation axis, relative to the handle, through an arc between a retracted position and an extended position when an opening force is applied to the blade;

a contact pin on the blade, positioned such that a user, holding the knife in one hand, can apply an opening force to the contact pin with a thumb or finger of the same one hand; and

a biasing assembly including a spring, the biasing assembly operatively coupled to the handle and configured to apply a closing force on the blade while the blade is in the retracted position and to act on the blade to bias the blade toward the extended position when the blade is moved from the retracted position past a transition position toward the extended position, the spring positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, to apply a first force in a first

direction that is offset from the rotation axis when the blade is positioned between the transition position and the extended position to bias the blade towards the extended position.

63. (Twice Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a handle;

a blade having a tang coupled to the handle, the blade configured to rotate about a rotation axis, relative to the handle, through an arc between a retracted position and an extended position when an opening force is applied to the blade;

a contact pin on the blade, extending perpendicular to a plane of travel of the blade and positioned such that a user, holding the knife in one hand, can apply an opening force to the blade with a thumb or finger of the same hand; and

a biasing assembly including a spring, the biasing assembly coupled to and positioned within the handle to act on the blade and configured to resist rotation of the blade toward the extended position while the blade is in the retracted position and to bias the blade toward the extended position after the blade is manually moved from the retracted position past a transition position, the spring positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, to apply a force in a direction offset from the rotation axis to create a moment about the rotation axis to bias the blade away from the retracted position and towards the extended position when the blade is moved beyond the transition position towards the extended position.

65. (Amended) A folding knife, comprising:

a handle having a blade cavity and a first end;

a blade having a first end and a second end opposite said first end;

a blade pivot connected to said first end of said handle for pivotal movement of said blade about said blade pivot between an extended position wherein the blade is outside of said blade cavity and a retracted position wherein a majority of the blade is within said blade cavity;

a plunger including a spring, the plunger pivotally connected to the blade at a first end, and connected to the handle at a second end, the spring being maximally deformed when the blade is pivoted to an intermediate position between the extended position and the retracted

position, the spring biasing the blade toward the extended position when the blade is positioned between the extended position and the intermediate position, and biasing the blade toward the retracted position when the blade is positioned between the retracted position and the intermediate position, and the first end of the plunger moving away from a back of the handle towards a front of the handle when the blade approaches the intermediate position from the retracted position.

66. (Amended) A folding knife comprising:

a handle;

a blade having a tang coupled to the handle, the blade configured to rotate about a rotation axis, relative to the handle, through an arc between a retracted position and an extended position when an opening force is applied to the blade;

a contact pin on the blade, the contact pin extending perpendicular to a plane of travel of the blade and positioned such that a user, holding the knife in one hand, can apply an opening force to the contact pin with a thumb or finger of the same one hand; and

a biasing assembly including a spring operatively coupled between the handle and the blade, the biasing assembly configured to resist rotation of the blade toward the extended position while the blade is in the retracted position and to bias the blade towards the extended position when the blade is moved from the retracted position past a transition position toward the extended position, the spring positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, so as to apply a first force in a first direction that is offset from the rotation axis when the blade is in the retracted position to create a moment about the rotation axis for holding the blade in the retracted position and to apply a second force in a second direction that is offset from the rotation axis to create a second moment about the rotation axis to bias the blade towards the extended position when the blade is moved beyond the transition position towards the extended position.

67. (New) The knife of claim 45 wherein the spring assembly is positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, to apply a second force in a second direction that, when the blade is in the stowed position, is offset from the rotation axis to create a second moment about the rotation axis for holding the blade in the stowed position.

68. (New) The folding knife of claim 52 wherein the transition position is located at an angular position of the blade at which the pressing means remains accessible to a thumb or a finger of the user while holding the knife in the same one hand.

69. (New) The folding knife of claim 52 wherein the spring is positioned, relative to the tang of the blade, to apply a second force in a second direction that is offset from the rotation axis to create a second moment about the rotation axis when the blade is moved beyond the transition position towards the extended position.

70. (New) The folding knife of claim 58 wherein the biasing assembly is further configured to resist movement of the blade away from the retracted position while the blade is in the retracted position.

71. (New) The folding knife of claim 58 wherein the transition position is located at an angular position of the blade at which the contact pin is accessible to a thumb or finger of the user while holding the knife in the same one hand.

72. (New) The folding knife of claim 62 wherein an end of the biasing assembly adjacent the tang of the blade is configured to move away from the back of the handle towards the front of the handle as the biasing assembly applies an opening bias to the blade.

73. (New) The folding knife of claim 66 wherein the transition position is located at an angular position of the blade at which the contact pin is accessible to a thumb or finger of the user while holding the knife in the same one hand.